



May 2005

ZOOM

IN ON THE USA

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AMERICA'S LANDMARKS

In this issue of *Zoom* we present some of the most recognizable places - symbols of the United States.

■ Greatness

Mount Rushmore stands in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The Presidents' faces are 60 feet (18.3 m) high. The drilling on the mountain started in 1927 and the last face - that of Roosevelt - was completed in 1939.

Today, more than 2.7 million people visit Mt. Rushmore each year, making it one of the most popular monuments in the United States.

Presidents whose heads are carved in Mount Rushmore are (from left):

George Washington

Thomas Jefferson

Theodore Roosevelt

Abraham Lincoln

Which President:

➡ won a Nobel Peace Prize for his work to mediate the end of the Russo-Japanese War, and who also introduced reforms in American business and focused on the conservation movement?

➡ expanded the United States through the Louisiana Purchase, which nearly doubled the size of the country and led to the creation of thirteen new states?

➡ preserved the Union of the American states by not agreeing to let the southern states secede from it? He also abolished slavery.

➡ was the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War and the first President of the United States?

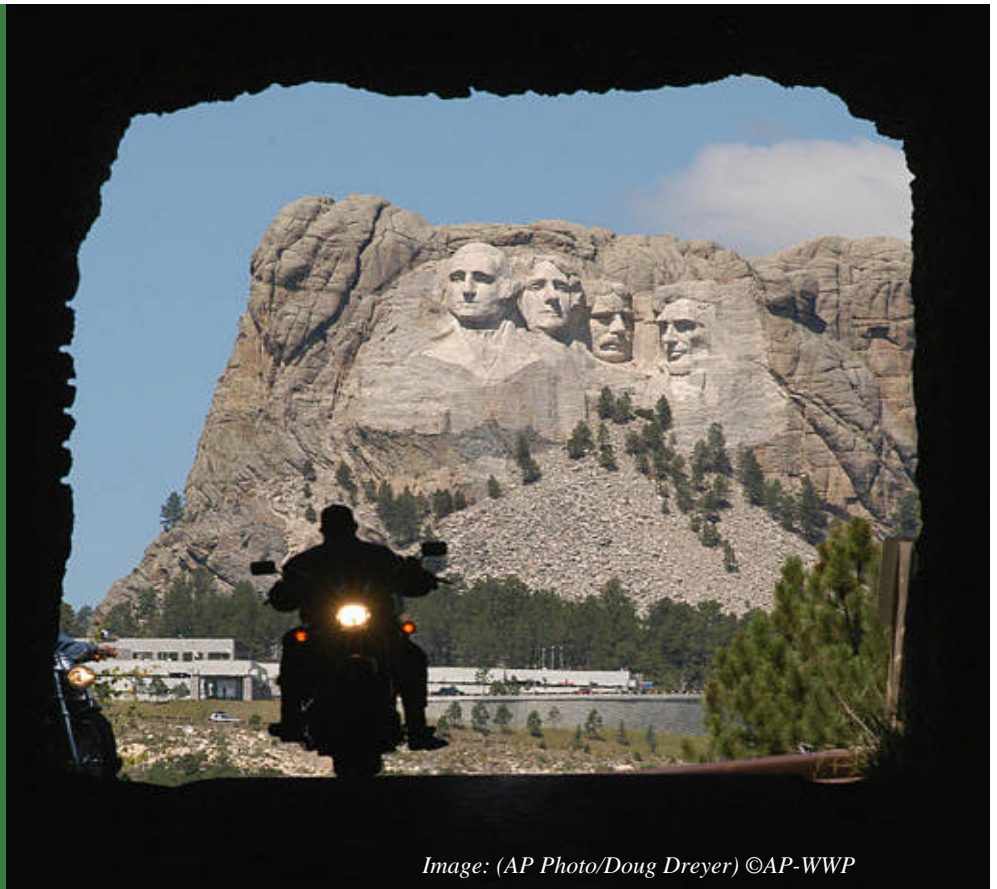


Image: (AP Photo/Doug Dreyer) ©AP-WWP

Liberty

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land:
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost, to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus," The Poems of Emma Lazarus, vol. 1 (1889)

Torch: symbolizes light or enlightenment, the key to achieving freedom.

Robe: the statue wears a free-flowing robe, which refers to the Roman goddess Libertas, worshipped by freed slaves.

Emma Lazarus saw the Statue of Liberty as a beacon to the world. A poem she wrote to help raise money for the pedestal captured what the statue came to mean to the millions who migrated to the United States seeking freedom, and who continue to come to this day.

Many native-born Americans and immigrants at the time did see themselves just as Lazarus portrayed them - wretched, nameless, "tempest-tost." For them Europe meant poverty and persecution, and America meant democracy and opportunity.

When they were "sickened at last of poverty, bigotry and kings," wrote another immigrant, "there was always America!"

José Luis Sampedro, wrote: "I love New York because, from its Dutch and Saxon origin, it has risen into an amalgam of all the ethnic groups, religions and life styles, and has achieved a real, total globalization, cultural and human, thus being ahead of future times. I love that Cosmopolis, a model for the future. As Scott Fitzgerald wrote of it, 'New York has all the iridescence of the beginning of the world'".

Crown: the crown with seven spikes represents the 7 seas and 7 continents of the world, a reminder of the universal concept of liberty.

Tablet: contains the date of America's independence - JULY IV MDCCLXXVI - in Roman numerals.

The Statue of Liberty stands on an island located next to Ellis Island in New York City's harbor, which functioned as a special port of entry for immigrants between 1892 and 1954. In those years Ellis Island was the doorway to the United States for 12 million people. The statue became many immigrants' first sight of their homeland-to-be.

The U.S. now admits about 1 million (figure from 2002) legal immigrants each year. They are mostly immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, skilled employees, refugees, and "winners" of the U.S. Diversity Visa lottery.

Based on Department of State and National Park Service publications

Language Tip!

You can create phrases similar to the one above: "homeland-to-be" (meaning "future homeland") using other words, e.g. "a bride-to-be" = a future bride, "a graduate-to-be" = a future graduate.

Image: (APPhoto/ Jennifer Szymaszek) ©AP-WWP

Here is an example of an **INFORMAL** letter (to a friend or member of your family).

Place a **date** in upper right corner. In the American format the month - in this case May - goes first, before the day.

Greet the person you are writing to. Besides **Hi** you can also use:

Dear...

Hello...

At the beginning you can mention your **latest contact** with the person. Use phrases such as:

Many thanks for your letter.

It was very nice to hear from you.

I was glad to hear that...

After the main body of the letter you may **end** it with:

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Write soon!

Hi Kate!

How are you? Thanks for your last e-mail. It was nice to hear from you after so long!

Right now I'm spending a week in the States with my aunt and cousin. Then I'm going to head back to school to finish this year with better grades than last year, hopefully. I'm trying to improve my English here!

I'm attaching a photo I took of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California. Did you know that I am a fan (probably the biggest in the world!) of Hitchcock's "Vertigo"? Well, the Golden Gate is featured in one of the coolest scenes of that movie. I had been dreaming about seeing it with my own eyes and in fact I even cycled across it! It's strange that you can cycle but it's not allowed to roller-blade, so my cousin had to take off his blades and walk! It's a 1.7 mile-long walk.

Take care,

Alicia

P.S. One gruesome (I'm not sure about this word) bit of information about this bridge is that more suicides take place on it than on any other single structure in the world. :-(



Language Tip!

In the letter above Alicia said: **It's a 1.7 mile-long walk.** In English you should use a hyphen (-) to create adjectives containing numbers or formed from numbers, e.g. a **five-year-old child**, **twentieth-century literature.**

More American landmarks on the web

The Grand Canyon
<http://www.nps.gov/grca/grandcanyon/>

The Lincoln Memorial
<http://www.nps.gov/linc/home.htm>

The Alamo
<http://www.thealamo.org/>

Activity Page

Win a Prize!

To take part in a drawing for one book find the answer to the following question:

How many legal immigrants are admitted into the United States annually?

Send your answer to:
irc@embusa.es

Give your name and address.

The deadline is
June 20, 2005.

Good Luck!

The winners from the previous issue will soon receive their prizes by mail.

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About ZOOM

Zoom is online at
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Find answers to activities on this page at www.embusa.es/irc/zoom.html

■ A Little Difficult?

Complete the sentences with **little**, **a little**, **few**, or **a few**.

1. There were only _____ items left after the big sale.
2. You only need _____ sugar to make this cake.
3. We don't need to hurry. We still have _____ time before the train leaves.
4. I don't understand why there were so _____ people at the cinema. I really liked the movie.
5. My mother always had very _____ patience with us. She got angry quickly when we misbehaved.
6. At a job interview they will want to ask you _____ questions.
7. _____ people can speak more than 5 languages.
8. The man who was sitting _____ seats in front of us was eating popcorn very loudly.

■ A Case of A Blank

Fill in the gaps. Write **the**, **a(n)** or leave the blank empty.

1. She was probably _____ most beautiful woman I've ever seen.
2. My kids usually drink _____ hot chocolate before going to sleep.
3. My older brother is _____ computer programmer. He works from _____ home.
4. Can I have _____ bar of chocolate?
5. _____ doctors say you should eat five servings of _____ vegetables _____ day.
6. I love _____ green tea, but _____ tea they served at this restaurant last night was horrible!
7. _____ poor in this country are threatening to rebel unless their situation improves.
8. I couldn't understand why they chose to live in _____ Minnesota. For me, _____ warm states are _____ best in _____ United States.
9. You'll find the main library on _____ Eye Street.

■ Glossary

to **abolish** - to do away with
an **asylum** - place where one finds protection and safety; a shelter.

a **beacon** - a signaling device

bigotry - intolerance

conservation - protection and preservation of wildlife and natural resources

decisive - here: unmistakable

to **mediate** - to try to reconcile people or countries

persecution - harassment, usually based on race or religion

a **refugee** - a person who escapes from his/her country to avoid persecution

to **secede** from - to withdraw from

a **spike** - a pointed piece of hard material

to **worship** - to honor (a god)

wretched - miserable